with the figures for 1088 was due to the defective demarcation of the areas of the reserved forests. He complained against the rigid enforcement of the Forest Rules which forbade cultivation of forest areas. He added that the gross revenue of the Forest Department amounted only to a little over 12 lacs of rupees and was quite inadequate to the extent of the forest area. The revenue could be enhanced by greater attention being paid to the minor produce of the forests. He also said that the swamp areas within the forests, which were admirably suited for paddy cultivation, should be assigned to the people. That would increase the supply of paddy in the country and thereby promote the interests alike of the Government and the people.

The Member also suggested that a scientific survey of the forests of the State should be ordered to be made conjointly by the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Agriculture and any other officers the Government might consider necessary.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's remarks will be referred to the Conservator of Forests for report.

12. The need for the relaxation of the stringency of the Forest Rules in respect of Cardamom cultivation.

Mr. Sannyasi Mallayan Chetti (Member, Devikulam taluk) observed that cardamom cultivation was originally carried on by the adjoining British ryots, and that, during the past 100 years, the cultivation had declined and become difficult. The difficulty was accentuated by the recent enhancement of the acreage value on cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre, and also the enforcement of the payment of 5 years' assessment as penalty for occupation of cardamom lands by a mere executive order of the Superintendent of Devikulam. He also pointed out that the stringent enforcement of the Forest Rules did not permit the cardamom ryots to use fire-arms freely, to cut down the trees standing on cardamom lands and use the timber for their own private purposes, and to graze their cattle in the adjoining forests. He also referred to the fall in the demand for cardamom on account of the European war and the general indebtedness of the cardamom ryots. He therefore requested—

(1) that the *tharavila* on cardamom lands should be reduced and the system of levying arrears of assessment as penalty abolished ;

(2) that the Forest Rules should be relaxed so as to permit the free use of the forests adjoining cardamom lands for grazing purposes and also the free felling of the reserved trees on cardamom lands for the private use of the ryots concerned ;

(3) that the cardamom ryots be permitted generally to use fire-arms and to shoot such of the wild animals as were dangerous to cultivation ; and

(4) that the Government might afford all other facilities required for the successful cultivation of cardamom lands.

Dewan's reply.—The Superintendent of Devikulam and the Conservator of Forests will be asked to report on the Member's representations.

(3) Excise, Trade and Customs Revenue.

13. The necessity for appointing a Committee for the development of trade.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) said that the trade of the country was almost wholly in the hands of outsiders. The important raw products, *viz.*, copra, pepper, cocoanut oil, dried ginger and hides, were exported through foreign agencies and the finished products too were imported through the same agencies. To encourage local traders, the Member suggested the appointment of a Special Officer to instruct them on the condition of the different markets in the world, the time of demand for particular articles of trade in particular markets and the easiest means of transmission of the products concerned to the proper markets

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly